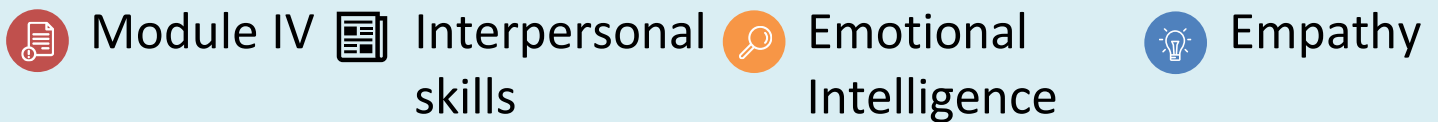


Cliff Metaphor



Activity: Cliff metaphor

- **Short Description:** This short exercise is aimed helping teachers to challenge their students with a fictitious situation they would face and that they need to answer, using their sense of empathy to find the right way to answer.
- **Methodology:** Riddle
- **Duration:** 5 - 10 minutes
- **Difficulty (high - medium - low):** low
- **Individual / Team:** Team – entire classroom. With some volunteers in front of the classroom
- **Classroom / House:** This activity is to be developed in the classroom
- **What do we need to do this activity?** (Indicate what resources we need to be able to carry out the proposed activity)
 - **Hardware:** non
 - **Software:** none
 - **Other resources:** none

Description

- **Text description:**

In this activity, you will expose the following situation to your students, and ask them what they would do in such case:



Imagine a person stuck on the side of a steep cliff. This person is in despair and is screaming for help. You are in the nearby and listen to this voice calling. What do you do?

To make this exercise more interactive, you can ask one of your students (student A) to come on stage and role play this person in the cliff side. Then, ask another student (student B) to come to his side and explain what he would do.

Probably, the first reaction will be for the student B to make his way to the one falling and try to save him. Unfortunately, they are now both stuck on the cliff and can't get down.

Now ask to the classroom to discuss about what they should do, before scarifying more students. They should come to the conclusion that instead of climbing up the slippery rock face to save them, they should consider how they got there and the best way to save them. They would then return with some rope and harnesses.

After this, you can provide students with the following comments:

- Student B felt bad for Student A and acted out of sympathy. It was a well-meaning sentiment but actually made the problem worse.
- After discussion, the classroom listened to the others, recognized the problem, and used empathy to understand what was needed to resolve the situation.
- Student A, well, shouldn't have wandered off the trail

- **Illustration:**



https://unsplash.com/photos/TnG2_ppdhUA



Instructions

1. STEP 1 – Explain the situation
2. STEP 2 – Ask a student to mimic the situation
3. STEP 3 – Ask another student to help him
4. STEP 4 – Ask the rest of the classroom to talk about the situation and to plan an answer
5. STEP 5 – Debate
6. STEP 6 – Explain what is the difference between sympathy and empathy

Expected outcomes

- Understand difference between sympathy and empathy
- Develop empathy
- Decision making

This activity can be used in other (module, course, topic, lesson):

- **Module IV, Interpersonal Skills – understanding others – emotional intelligence, and conversation**

ENTRECOMP (Competences developed): Working with others, planning and management, taking the initiative

